

Tuesday, July 27th 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

1398 '99 JUL 30 P3:29

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RE: DOCKET NOS: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in regards to forced molting of battery hens and to voice my concerns to the practice of forced molting.

As far as I'm concerned, the whole factory farm experience is an unhealthy and cruel business from the start. The consumption of chicken by humans is not a healthy alternative to red meat as many would believe or try to promote. According to yourself; 'poultry is the number one source of food-borne illnesses, which causes an estimated 1,680 deaths per year and millions of cases of food poisoning'. But to day, I am writing about the cruel side of factory farming. A small portion of that cruelty being, forced molting.

I am in total agreement with what the United Poultry Concerns and many other groups and individuals are appealing for you to enforce. The following list will enlighten you as to my agreed feelings on this matter:

\*FDA must do more than put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures.

\*FDA should prohibit the practice of forced molting because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems.

\*FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health.

\*FDA must ban the forced molting of laying hens because forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs.

\*FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted without further delay.

Please stop the cruelty and if one must eat the flesh of another, bring back the family farmer who cares for his animals and to the buyer of that flesh.

Thank you



Cherie Maher

96P-0418

C14

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***Animals in Laboratories***

*Unseen  
They Suffer  
Unheard  
They Cry  
In Agony  
They Linger  
In Loneliness  
They Die*



**People for the  
Ethical Treatment of Animals**

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/*C14*

See File Number: 97P-0197/*C15*

96P-0418/*C14*